

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Pennsauken Township, NJ

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

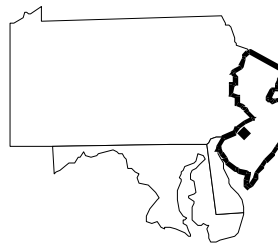
Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Pennsauken Township for a Brownfields Pilot. Pennsauken Township occupies approximately 10.5 square miles located between the Delaware and Cooper rivers and has a 1998 estimated population of 33,879. In the early 1800s, the influx of maritime trade and rail transportation along the Pennsauken waterfront spawned development for many industries such as paper and steel manufacturing. Changes in the economy caused a decline in manufacturing in this region, which led to layoffs and eventual factory shutdowns. The economic effect of this decline is felt in the loss of jobs, wages, and tax revenues, as well as in a surplus of unused, or underused, functionally obsolete buildings that have little if any market value. The immediate waterfront area, which is the focus of this Pilot, is mostly industrial with only 50 residents, but the area immediately inland is densely populated with low-income residents living in poverty. These sites are sources of potential threats to the health and well-being of the people living in adjacent neighborhoods.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Pennsauken Township, NJ

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the riverfront area of Pennsauken Township for assessments leading to the development of cleanup and redevelopment plans for this 500-acre area.

Contacts:

Township Committee
(856) 665-1000, ext. 109

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 2
(212) 637-4314

Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

This Pilot will identify, characterize, and develop cleanup plans for up to six contaminated sites in the focus area. The focus area is a 500-acre subdivision, carefully selected by the township as an ideal location for initial actions to redevelop the riverfront area. The objectives of the Pilot are to preserve, protect, and strengthen the character of existing residential neighborhoods and reduce health threats to residents affected by contaminated properties. The Pilot also will identify and encourage adaptive reuse of vacant and underutilized properties and structures and design and implement new transportation alternatives that include light-rail systems. In addition, the Pilot will consolidate Pennsauken's industrial land uses.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Identifying, evaluating, and ranking sites to decide which sites will benefit the community most from cleanup and redevelopment;
- Conducting field assessments and evaluations of identified sites;
- Designing cleanup and redevelopment plans; and
- Organizing and executing community involvement activities to involve the residents in decision making and educate them on the Pilot activities.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.